7          database by the first process to return data that reflects a database state associated

8          with the snapshot time;

9      after the first process obtains the snapshot time, causing the first process to extract the

10          particular set of data from the first database; and

11     supplying said software application with the particular set of data that was extracted from

12          the first database.


1   2.   (Not Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of causing a second

2        process to store the particular set of data in a second database.


1   3.   (Not Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of identifying the particular set

2        of data includes the step of creating a copy table list, wherein the copy table list contains

3        entries that identify the particular set of data in the first database.


1   4.   (Not Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of causing the second process

2        to store the particular set of data in the second database includes the steps of:

3        writing the particular set of data to one or more flat files; and

4        executing a loader process, wherein the loader process loads the particular set of data

5            from the one or more flat files to the second database.


1   5.   (Not Amended) The method of Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

2        executing a delete process, wherein the delete process uses the copy table list to identify

3            data that needs to be deleted in a second database; and

4        deleting the identified data from the second database.


1   6.   (Not Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein the step of writing the particular set of

2        data to one or more flat files includes the steps of:

Serial No. 09/032,095                          -3-

3        the first process informing a coordinator process when it has finished writing data to a

4            particular flat file; and

5        the coordinator using the information to tell the loader process when it can begin loading

6            the flat file into the second database.


1    7.    (Not Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein the step of:

2          writing the particular set of data to the flat file includes the step of writing the particular

3              set of data to a plurality of flat files; and

4          executing the loader process includes the step of executing a plurality of loader processes,

5              wherein the plurality of loader processes load the particular set of data from the

6              plurality of flat files to the second database.


1    8.    (Not Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of supplying said software

2          application with data from said particular set of data includes the steps of:

3          said software application reading the particular set of data stored in the second database;

4              and

5          said software application generating a planning schedule based on the particular set of

6              data.


1    9.    (Not Amended) The method of Claim 3, where the step of creating the copy table list

2          includes the steps of:

3          communicating with the software application to identifying a set of planning data, where

4              the planning data is required for generating a planning schedule; and

5          creating the copy table list based on the identified set of planning data.


1    10.   (Not Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of supplying said software

2          application with data from said particular set of data includes the steps of:

50277-177 (OID 1997-53-01)

3    writing the particular set of data to one or more flat files; and

4    supplying the one or more flat files to said software application, wherein said software

5         application generates a planning schedule based on information contained in the

6         one or more flat files .

1    11.    (Not Amended) A method for producing a copy of data from a first database, the method

2    comprising the steps of:

3    locking a first set of data in the first database;

4    after locking the first set of data,

5         requesting a plurality of processes to obtain snapshot times from a database server

6              associated with said first database, wherein the snapshot times cause all

7              subsequent reads of the first database by the plurality of processes to

8              return data from the first database as of said snapshot times;

9         waiting a particular period of time for the plurality of processes to be assigned

10             snapshot times;

11        releasing the locks on the first set of data in the first database;

12        using a successful set of said plurality of processes to extract a copy of the first set

13             of data from the first database, wherein said successful set includes only

14             those processes of the plurality of processes that were assigned a snapshot

15             time within the particular period of time; and

16        storing the copy of the first set of data separate from said first of data.

1    12.    (Not Amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of identifying the first set of

2    data includes the step of creating a copy table list, wherein the copy table list contains

3    entries that identify the first set of data in the first database.

1  13.  (Not Amended) The method of Claim 12, where the step of creating the copy table list
2       includes the steps of:
3       identifying a set of planning data, where the planning data is required to generate a
4            planning schedule; and
5       creating the copy table list based on the planning data required to generate the planning
6            schedule.


1  14.  (Not Amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of storing the copy of the first
2       set of data includes the steps of:
3       writing the copy of the first set of data to a plurality of flat files; and
4       executing a plurality of loader processes, wherein the plurality of loader processes load
5            the copy of the first set of data from the plurality of flat files to a second database.


1  15.  (Not Amended) The method of Claim 12, further comprising the steps of:
2       executing a plurality of delete processes, wherein the plurality of delete processes use the
3            copy table list to identify data that needs to be deleted in a second database; and
4-      deleting the identified data from the second database.


1  16.  (Not Amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of requesting the plurality of
2       processes to obtain a snapshot time includes the step of requesting the plurality of
3       processes based on a user input parameter, wherein the user input parameter identifies
4       how many processes should be requested to obtain a snapshot time.


1  17.  (Not Amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of extracting the copy of the
2       first set of data from the database includes the steps of:
3       assigning a set of copy data to the plurality of snapshot processes; and

Serial No. 09/032,095       -6-

4
5
    retrieving data from the first database based on the set of copy data that was assigned to
        the plurality of snapshot processes.

1   18.    (Not Amended) The method of Claim 14, wherein:

2      the steps of writing the copy of the first set of data to a plurality of flat files further

3         includes the step of notifying a coordinator process that data has been written to

4         one of the plurality of flat files; and

5      the steps of executing the plurality of loader processes further includes the step of the

6         coordinator, upon being notified that data has been written to one of the plurality

7         of flat files, launching a loader process to load the first set of data from one of the

8         plurality of flat files to the second database.

1   19.    (Not Amended) The method of Claim 14, wherein the step of writing the copy of the first

2      set of data to the plurality of flat files includes the steps of:

3      the plurality of process informing a coordinator process when it has finished writing data

4         to a particular flat file; and

5      the coordinator using the information to tell one of the plurality of loader processes when

6         it can begin loading the particular flat file into the second database.

1   20.    (Not Amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of storing the copy of the first

2      set of data includes the steps of storing the copy of the first set of data as blob files that

3      are separate from said first of data.

1   21.    (Not Amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of storing the copy of the first

2      set of data includes the steps of storing the copy of the first set of data in said first of data.

50277-177 (OID 1997-53-01)

1    22.    (Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more
2          instructions for supplying a consistent set of data to a software application, the one or
3          more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed
4          by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
5          [launching said software application;]
6          identifying a particular set of data that is required by the software application;
7          requesting a first process to obtain a snapshot time from a database server associated with
8                a first database, wherein the snapshot time causes all subsequent reads of said first
9                database by the first process to return data that reflects a database state associated
10                with the snapshot time;
11          after the first process obtains the snapshot time, causing the first process to extract the
12                particular set of data from the first database; and
13          supplying said software application with the particular set of data that was extracted from
14                the first database.


1    23.    (Not Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 22, wherein the computer-
2          readable medium further comprises instructions for performing the step of causing a
3          second process to store the particular set of data in a second database.


1    24.    (Not Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 22, wherein the step of
2          identifying the particular set of data includes the step of creating a copy table list,
3          wherein the copy table list contains entries that identify the particular set of data in the
4          first database.


1    25.    (Not Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 23, wherein the step of causing
2          the second process to store the particular set of data in the second database includes the
3          steps of:

4       writing the particular set of data to one or more flat files; and

5       executing a loader process, wherein the loader process loads the particular set of data

6                from the one or more flat files to the second database.

1   26.  (Not Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 25, wherein the step of writing

2        the particular set of data to one or more flat files includes the steps of:

3        the first process informing a coordinator process when it has finished writing data to a

4                particular flat file; and

5        the coordinator using the information to tell the loader process when it can begin loading

6                the flat file into the second database.

1   27.  (Not Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or

2        more instructions for producing a copy of data from a first database, the one or more

3        sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by

4        one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

5        locking a first set of data in the first database;

6        after locking the first set of data,

7        requesting a plurality of processes to obtain snapshot times from a database server

8                associated with said first database, wherein the snapshot times cause all

9                subsequent reads of the first database by the plurality of processes to return data

10               from the first database as of said snapshot times;

11       waiting a particular period of time for the plurality of processes to be assigned snapshot

12               times;

13       releasing the locks on the first set of data in the first database;

14       using a successful set of said plurality of processes to extract a copy of the first set of data

15               from the first database, wherein said successful set includes only those processes

16      of the plurality of processes that were assigned a snapshot time within the

17      particular period of time; and

18    storing the copy of the first set of data separate from said first of data.

1    28.   (Not Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 27, wherein the step of

2       identifying the first set of data includes the step of creating a copy table list, wherein the

3       copy table list contains entries that identify the first set of data in the first database.

1    29.   (Not Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 27, wherein the step of storing

2       the copy of the first set of data includes the steps of:

3       writing the copy of the first set of data to a plurality of flat files; and

4       executing a plurality of loader processes, wherein the plurality of loader processes load

5          the copy of the first set of data from the plurality of flat files to a second database.

1    30.   (Not Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 27, wherein the step of

2       extracting the copy of the first set of data from the database includes the steps of:

3       assigning a set of copy data to the plurality of snapshot processes; and

4       retrieving data from the first database based on the set of copy data that was assigned to

5          the plurality of snapshot processes.

1    31.   (Not Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 29, wherein the step of writing

2       the copy of the first set of data to the plurality of flat files includes the steps of:

3       the plurality of process informing a coordinator process when it has finished writing data

4          to a particular flat file; and

5       the coordinator using the information to tell one of the plurality of loader processes when

6          it can begin loading the particular flat file into the second database.

*Serial No. 09/032,095*                                     -10-

1   32.   (Amended) A computer system for supplying a consistent set of data to a software
2         application, the computer system comprising:
3         a memory;
4         one or more processors coupled to the memory; and
5         a set of computer instructions contained in the memory, the set of computer instructions
6              including computer instructions which when executed by the one or more
7              processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
8         [launching said software application;]
9         identifying a particular set of data that is required by the software application;
10        requesting a first process to obtain a snapshot time from a database server
11             associated with a first database, wherein the snapshot time causes all
12             subsequent reads of said first database by the first process to return data
13             that reflects a database state associated with the snapshot time;
14        after the first process obtains the snapshot time, causing the first process to extract
15             the particular set of data from the first database; and
16        supplying said software application with the particular set of data that was
17             extracted from the first database.


1   33.   (Not Amended) The computer system of Claim 32, further including instructions for
2         performing the step of causing a second process to store the particular set of data in a
3         second database.


1   34.   (Not Amended) The computer system of Claim 32, wherein the step of identifying the
2         particular set of data includes the step of creating a copy table list, wherein the copy
3         table list contains entries that identify the particular set of data in the first database.

1   35.   (Not Amended) The computer system of Claim 33, wherein the step of causing the
2      second process to store the particular set of data in the second database includes the steps
3      of:
4      writing the particular set of data to one or more flat files; and
5      executing a loader process, wherein the loader process loads the particular set of data
6          from the one or more flat files to the second database.

1   36.   (Not Amended) The computer system of Claim 35, wherein the step of writing the
2      particular set of data to one or more flat files includes the steps of:
3      the first process informing a coordinator process when it has finished writing data to a
4          particular flat file; and
5      the coordinator using the information to tell the loader process when it can begin loading
6          the flat file into the second database.

1   37.   (Not Amended) A computer system for producing a copy of data from a first database, the
2      computer system comprising:
3      a memory;
4      one or more processors coupled to the memory; and
5      a set of computer instructions contained in the memory, the set of computer instructions
6          including computer instructions which when executed by the one or more
7          processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
8          locking a first set of data in the first database;
9          after locking the first set of data,
10              requesting a plurality of processes to obtain snapshot times from a
11                 database server associated with said first database, wherein the
12                 snapshot times cause all subsequent reads of the first database by the

Serial No. 09/032,095          -12-

13
14    plurality of processes to return data from the first database as of said
15    snapshot times;
16        waiting a particular period of time for the plurality of processes to be
17        assigned snapshot times;
18    releasing the locks on the first set of data in the first database;
19    using a successful set of said plurality of processes to extract a copy of the
20        first set of data from the first database, wherein said successful set
21        includes only those processes of the plurality of processes that were
22        assigned a snapshot time within the particular period of time; and
      storing the copy of the first set of data separate from said first of data.

1   38.    (Not Amended) The computer system of Claim 37, wherein the step of identifying the
2   first set of data includes the step of creating a copy table list, wherein the copy table list
3   contains entries that identify the first set of data in the first database.

1   39.    (Not Amended) The computer system of Claim 37, wherein the step of storing the copy
2   of the first set of data includes the steps of:
3   writing the copy of the first set of data to a plurality of flat files; and
4   executing a plurality of loader processes, wherein the plurality of loader processes load
5        the copy of the first set of data from the plurality of flat files to a second database.

1   40.    (Not Amended) The computer system of Claim 37, wherein the step of extracting the
2   copy of the first set of data from the database includes the steps of:
3   assigning a set of copy data to the plurality of snapshot processes; and
4   retrieving data from the first database based on the set of copy data that was assigned to
5        the plurality of snapshot processes.

50277-177 (OID 1997-53-01)

*Serial No. 09/032,095*                                   13

1   41.    (Not Amended) The computer system of Claim 39, wherein the step of writing the copy

2          of the first set of data to the plurality of flat files includes the steps of:

3          the plurality of process informing a coordinator process when it has finished writing data

4                  to a particular flat file; and

5          the coordinator using the information to tell one of the plurality of loader processes when

6                  it can begin loading the particular flat file into the second database.